

SECRET

13 December 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM : Executive Assistant to the Director

SUBJECT: Watch Committee

1. The cause for concern on the part of CIA representatives under the establishment of one Watch Committee under the chairmanship of G-2 apparently stems from the following factors:

a. CIA established its Watch Committee because of the belief that the G-2 Watch Committee did not deal with the same type of material nor reach the same conclusions which were essential for any group who were responsible for informing the DCI of crisis situations that should be called to the attention of the Security Council or the President. Specifically, the G-2 Committee seemed to prepare estimates based on speculation as to future developments rather than situation reports based upon all facts available from all sources on the immediate subject. The service agencies on the G-2 Committee were represented by high-level estimators who seldom had all of the facts at their disposal and who did not appear willing to come prepared with the facts on any given situation.

b. As a consequence of this situation CIA set up its own Watch Committee of working level men who have all of the facts at their disposal from all sources. It is pointed out that the new Office of Estimates places great reliance on the check list section of the General Division, the head of which represents CIA on the Watch Committee. The Air Force representative has made great use of the facilities of the General Division, which is apparently the only central location in Washington of all information. The Army does not make use of the General Division and the Navy's use is only slight.

c. The issue disturbing the CIA representatives on the Watch Committee is that the Army concept has now prevailed and that there is no real Watch Committee left to take immediate action on crisis situations. It is the fear of the CIA representatives that the Watch Committee under General Weckerling will continue to make estimates, rather than situation reports, and that the representatives thereon will be too high-level to come prepared with all of the facts.

2. It is recommended that the following action be taken:

a. That informal discussions be held with General Bolling to make sure that the Watch Committee under the chairmanship of G-2 is in fact a Watch Committee, not an estimates group, and that if their representative inclines toward estimates that he should be assigned to Dr. Langer's office rather than to the Watch Committee.

b. That steps be taken to insure that each agency will send representatives fully qualified to discuss all of the facts available to them and their departments on a given situation.

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LEMAN B. KIRKPATRICK

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